godowns, some State Governments are facing problems to store foodgrains supplied by the Centre under various Centrally sponsored schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) To facilitate lifting of foodgrains by State Governments, FCI creates storage capacity at strategic locations for distribution of foodgrains.

As on 31.10.2002, the FCI has a total storage capacity of 35.50 million tonnes (owned and hired/Covered and CAP) against the total stocks of 23.81 million tonnes with the utilization of 67%.

FCI has a network of 2178 depots (as on 30.6.2002) spread all over the country from where foodgrains are stored/lifted by the State Governments/agencies under Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes.

Stock of foodgrains with FCI

2257. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat and rice available with the Food Corporation of India as on date;

(b) the quantity of wheat and rice lying open for want of godowns; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to dispose of surplus wheat and rice lying in open?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 31st October, 2002 was 205.09 lakh tonnes and 330.59 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) A quantity of 35.10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 14.20 lakh tonnes of paddy was lying in covered and plinth (CAP) as on 31.10.2002. Only wheat and paddy (not rice) are stored in CAP.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to dispose off the excess stock of foodgrains is at statement.

Statement

Major steps taken by the government to dispose of the excess stock of foodgrains

(i) The scale of issue for APL, BPL and Antyoday households has been increased to 35 from 25 kg. per household per month.

(ii) Implementation of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in all States.

(iii) The scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels has been fixed uniformly @ 15 kg. per month. An additional allocation equal to 5% of the BPL allocation of States?UTs on this account has been made for the year 2002-2003 at BPL CIP.

(iv) Implementation of the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and issue of foodgrains under the Special Component of SGRY to States affected by natural calamities.

(v) To increase export of wheat and rice including luster lost wheat, provide WTO compatible subsidies for exports of wheat, wheat products and rice.

(vi) Quantitative restrictions on the export of rice, wheat and wheat products have been removed, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time.